

3.2.2. BASELINE SURFACE RADIATION NETWORK

The STAR group has the primary management role in BSRN and has carried out the duties of International Project Manager for the past 7 years. BSRN is intended not only to supply the international climate research community with the best possible surface irradiance data from a globally and climatologically diverse long-term network, but also to keep advancing the state of the art in improvements of those measurements so that research uses of the data can continue to be expanded. Support of the U.S. BSRN program comes from several agencies, NOAA/National Weather Service (NWS), NOAA/Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR),

NASA, and the U.S. Department of Energy/Atmospheric Radiation Measurement (DOE/ARM), and is funded internationally by more than 15 participating countries that operate surface BSRN stations and contribute technical experts to the group's efforts. The BSRN data are being utilized in major satellite and GCM research programs mentioned earlier. The program was conceived in 1988, began operations in 1992, and is intended to operate indefinitely until there are no further extensive research needs for such data. Activities of BSRN are further summarized by *Ohmura et al.* [1998]. The BSRN program is part of WCRP and the Global Energy and Water Cycle Experiment (GEWEX).